



Virginia Resource-Use Education Council

P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104

Founded 1952

Business Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2013

Meeting start: 9:50 AM End: 2:50 PM

The spring VRUEC business meeting was held at the Science Museum of Virginia, Richmond.

VRUEC Members present: Carol Hopper Brill (VIMS), Dee DeRoche (Dept of Historic Resources), Lisa Deaton (VA Dept. of Forestry), Cindy Duncan (Chesapeake Bay Foundation), Greg Eaton (Claytor Nature Study Center), Suzie Gilley (DGIF), Andrew W. Larkin (NOAA B-WET), Candace Lutzow-Felling (State Arboretum of Virginia), Bill Portlock (Chesapeake Bay Foundation), Ellen Powell (VA DOF), Ann Regn (DEQ), David Ruble (DCR VOEE), Beth Sokolik (VA Soil & Water Conservation Districts), Tamra Willis (Mary Baldwin College), Sonya Wolen (Science Museum of Virginia), Anne Wright (VCU Rice Center), Barbara Young (VDOE)

Guests: April Bahen (DEQ VA CZM) Sheila Barnett (DCR VOEE), Susan Booth (VAST), Stephanie DiNicola (Culpepper Soil & Water Conservation District), Mike Foreman (DCR VOEE), Carol Heiser (VA Dept of Forestry), Lisa Lawrence (VA Institute of Marine Science), Mary Pike (NoVa), Lorna Rosenberg (EPA), Elaine Tholen (Fairfax County Public Schools), Bonnie Phillips (DCR)

Special Guests:

Lorna Rosenberg, EPA & Mark Howell, Library of Virginia, Education & Programs Manager

I. Special Presentation, Lorna Rosenberg, EPA

Green Ribbon Schools, a national competition that evaluates 3 main components for school applicants: (1) Efficiency of facility (reduce environmental impact & costs), (2) Health and wellness (including air quality & fitness), (3) Environmental and sustainability education

Two VA schools were selected as Green Ribbon Schools in 2012

Basic elements of a state school environmental health program needed are: state-wide policies, state/local resources, division/school level model programs, guidance/technical assistance/outreach

EPA has guidelines to advance School Environmental Health Programs

Examples of VA Statewide environmental programs that align with Green Ribbon:

VDH/VDOE Asthma guidelines, VSBA Green Public School Challenge, Va

Naturally Schools, VDOE School Health Advisory Boards, VA radon Testing-VDH,

NoVa Outside, Energy STAR Loudoun County 2010-2012 Sustaining Partner

This is one of our opportunities to further environmental education in Virginia.

Ms. Rosenberg's presentation generated active discussion about how VA schools can be more involved with efficient, sustainable, environmentally healthy schools.

II. Reports & Organization Business

1. Review of Minutes, submitted by Candace Lutzow-Felling

Minutes for the May 30, 2012 meeting were reviewed, and accepted, as amended.

2. Treasurer's Report, submitted by Ann Regn

2011-2012 Fiscal year report Income: \$6,387.71

Summary review for VRUEC's 3-year Bay Academy Program: \$284,700 total grant amount; Match \$60,899 (raised from various sources)

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted as submitted.

3. Membership Report (Suzie Gilley)

Name tags. We now have permanent name tags for members.

New members. New members are voted into VRUEC after attending two consecutive meetings & are one of two potential representatives from VRUEC member agencies;

Two new members:

Beth Skololik (VA Soil & Water Conservation Service)

Dan Cohen (Claytor Lake Nature Center)

Membership policy discussion. Membership will be discussed at the next VRUEC Executive Committee meeting (second Thursday of every month at 2 PM; February). Let Barb Young know if you would like to participate in this discussion.

4. Recognition Committee/Otter Award (Suzie Gilley)

This is a state-wide award.

A new pottery artist will be making the Otter Award; this will be a salt-fired clay (ceramic) sculpture. If anyone knows another artist who would be willing to make the Otter Award, please let Suzie know.

Our previous artist cannot continue to make the Otter Award due to health reasons. Suzie will send a thank you note on behalf of VRUEC for years of service to VRUEC.

5. NAAEE Conference: Affiliates Report (Greg Eaton)

- North American Association for Environmental Education; VRUEC is an Affiliate organization
- Affiliates and affiliate networks have various grant opportunities
- EPA Office of Environmental Education RFP: regional organizations are requested to apply (Region 3 applied MD, VA, & DE, with PA as the lead)
- Address environmental needs: health and environment
- There will be additional funding from EPA for planning (as per Lorna Rosenberg).
- Affiliate networks have working groups on various topics: Action & Efficacy, Diversity & Equity, etc. VRUEC members are welcome to participate in these working group conference calls (these are international networks).
- NAAEE conference is in Baltimore this year. VRUEC should participate.

6. 2012 Bay Academies (Bill Portlock)

CBF Academies have grown and have received highly favorable evaluations for the past three years

2010: 4 academies; 65 educators

2011: 6 academies; 76 educators

2012: 6 academies; 77 educators

7. VA Naturally Report (Sheila Barnett)

64 organizations were added as new partners in 2012

Partner database has been up-dated; Over 900 partners at present

Developing new and improved methods to obtain environmental info from EE groups throughout the state

2012 EE Conference at Hungry Mother State Park: 120 attendees

2013 conference: 6 people have volunteered to help plan the 2013 conference; need to find a location (scout potential locations) rest of planning is done via teleconferencing

Sheila will be added to the VDOE education newsletter distribution list so that she can add EE related activities to the VA Naturally calendar. VA Naturally calendar activities will automatically be added to the Bay Backpack calendar.

Top 9 VA Naturally web pages (based on # hits):

1. main home page (34,246 hits), 2. VA resources education guide, 3. education guide to minerals and resources, 4. grants, 5. EE conference (1200 hits), 6. K-12 resources for teachers (1000), 7. MWEE (864), 8. Natural resources guide agriculture chapter, 9. P.D. home page (654 hits)

There now is a VA Naturally Facebook page—check it out!

8. 2013 Leaders' Summit & EE Conference Report (David Ruble)

EE conference attendee surveys returned ~ 50 (40%)

Conference Locations and attendees home areas, 2009-2012

2009 Hampton: majority from Hampton area

2012 James Madison Montpelier: diverse distribution; 157 attendees;

2011 with MAMEA, Williamsburg: Most attendees from I-95 corridor (total attendees 117; 73 from VA)

2012 Hungry Mother State Park: 120 attendees; broad distribution

Based on survey results, most would like the conference between Stanton and Lynchburg

Attendees also favor a full 2-day conference

It would be good to get a stronger representation from more areas, esp. southern portion of the state

9. Regional Team Reports

SVEE (Tamra Willis). Sent a teacher to the 2012 EE conference

Rapp-Rapadidan (Stephanie DiNicola). Sent two people to 2012 EE conference.

Regional EE team has been folded into the land use and environment committee. Big project is the Envirothon; need volunteers

NoVa (Elanie Tholen). Having a steering meeting designed to grow the committee, currently have 30 members; PLT workshop coming up in Feb & will be led by Lisa Deaton, 39 or 29 people registered; April: Natural Connections Early childhood training with Ginny Sullivan as a keynote speaker; Green School Expo on April 24th (last year about 250 attendees and presenters attended), this year the event is being combined with Earth Force event

CVEEA (Greg Eaton). Holding a P-WET workshop in Feb.; Workshop on creating sustainable landscapes on Feb. 23; Growing demand for a PLT workshop, will be scheduled in the future

10. NOAA B-WET Update (Program Officer, B-WET Grants; Andrew Larkin)

FY 2012: 7 B-WET grants and 1 Environmental Literacy grant funded in Virginia
4 of the B-WET grants were continuing grants and 3 were new grants

FY 2013: 7 applications received; anticipate funding 3 continuing grants in VA and 2-3 new projects, depending on budget

Continuing downward pressure on the budget; will know later in March if funds for the 2013 grants has been allocated

\$5K or less mini-classroom grants applications should be sent to C.B. Trust this year (not to VA Naturally, as in previous years).

11. Mid-Atlantic Chesapeake Bay Workgroup Update (Tamra Willis)

No news

12. Policy Committee Update (No Child Left Inside & ESEA; Bill Portlock & Tamra Willis). Nothing new to report

13. Chesapeake Bay Backpack Update (Barbara Young)

All EE event entries sent to VA Naturally now will automatically be sent to the Chesapeake Bay Backpack web site for listing.

14. 2013 Green Ribbon Schools (Barbara Young)

Only 3 schools applied this year; difficulties probably due to application complexity and information to help applicants (was deleted from the application but placed on the web site)

Next year will open application process to School Divisions, too, rather than just individual schools

III. Announcements

1. *Flora of Virginia* (Mark Howell Library of Virginia, Chief Education Officer).

The *Flora* has been published and is available. Cost, \$79.00 for the volume.

An exhibit based on the *Flora* will begin in March at the library.

Requesting ideas of how to integrate disciplines and share these with teachers. Desire to have interdisciplinary teaching based on the *Flora*: history, science, geography

2. *Clean VA Waterways* (Katie Register). Marine Debris Summit, February, 2013.

Focus will be on solutions legislation, innovation, & education. Registration will open soon. Cost will be about \$60/day includes lunches. Encourage EE to attend.

3. *Hull Springs* (Katie Register). Hull Springs is a 660 acre property; just completed a strategic planning session. CE3 will be on Longwood University campus and will use Hull Springs for education; 2-years of funding received to develop curriculum for Hull Springs; Job description for Education Director to be posted soon (Feb or March)

Goals: better prepare teachers, increase science literacy, teacher P.D. and curriculum development

4. *VRUEC Conference Calls* (Barb Young). If interested in a VRUEC general monthly informational conference call, please let Barb know.

IV. New Business: Focus on opportunities for VRUEC involvement

1. Future Chesapeake Bay Academies (NOAA B-WET grant submitted by VRUEC) (Barbara Young)

Past C.B. Academy attendance data was key for developing the FY 2013 proposal. Several teachers attended multiple academies over the 3 years. 10-12% of the attendees were from smaller school divisions, many of which do not have a science supervisor to inform and encourage teachers to attend

VAST registrations show a similar trend, lower participation by teachers from smaller school divisions; Length of Academy was also an issue; 5 full days in a row was difficult for some

Proposed Watershed Academies: 2 first year (1 on James/York watershed, one on Rappahannock watershed), 3 second year (add Potomac watershed); 4 weekends in a year will comprise the training for teacher teams

Small school divisions will be targeted within these watersheds. Cannot offer this program in the SW or SE since these areas are not in the CB watershed.

Looking for teams of 4 teachers from each school to attend: 4 content areas (math, science, lit, social studies)

Would like to have each VRUEC member agency adopt a school within their region; can serve as a resource for the schools and for VRUEC, in general

Would also like to have EE Watershed Education Institute graduates work with the schools. Each participating school will be eligible to receive a \$500 grant to purchase MWEE supplies.

A part-time Project Manager, to organize and run academies, was included in the grant.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation still is having CB Academies, subsidized by CBF; there will be a \$350 registration fee for these academies

2. 2013 Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals' Conference (Barbara Young)

Desire to increase elementary and middle school principals awareness of resources available to help meet schools' SOL goals

Received a \$3100 grant from the Environmental Endowment for a MWEE preconference education institute, Saturday June 29

Three sessions are planned: (1) What is a MWEE? (2) Field investigations using schoolyard as an outdoor classroom (3) Using the environmental across the curriculum

Conference is Sunday and Monday, June 30-July1; Annual conference attendance typically is 200-250

Tamra Willis will be a key-note speaker at the conference; VRUEC will have an exhibit booth to showcase our various programs

For more information, go to: www.VAESP.org

Start thinking about the types of information to include in the exhibit booth: logos, programs, hand-outs, VRUEC members are needed to man the booth

Will use this conference as a model for the high school principal conference next year; would also like to partner with them

3. 2013 ESEA Title IV, Part B Statewide Grantee Institute (Suzie Gilley)

One or two spots are open for each concurrent session at the 21st Century CLC Conference, March 2013, Williamsburg

Before and after school programs are funded by a substantial grant to VDOE. VDOE redistributes these funds to sub-awardees annually. Schools with grants are located all over the state; could also be a local YMCA with the funds for before and after school programs

Presenting at this conference would be a good way to let the 21st CCLC folks learn who we are and what programs we can offer; Suzie has presenter forms;

transportation, hotels, and meals will be provided, if your presentation is accepted

Turn in presentation proposals to Suzie by next week.

4. 2013 EE Conference (David Ruble & Sheila Barnett)

Let Sheila know if you would like to help plan the conference.

Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Front Royal, is a possible location. Can host up to 200 people.

Tentative Schedule: Wed. evening reception; Thurs. sessions; Fri. field excursions

5. 2013 VAST PDI (Susan Booth, Executive Director)

About 800 attendees at 2012 VAST PDI in Williamsburg

2013 PDI will be in Norfolk; VSELA meeting will be immediately before VAST;

Joint VSELA/VAST Exhibitor's Reception

VRUEC members can share information about programs and resources on the VAST calendar and web pages; send information to Denny Casey, the VAST web master

VRUEC helps with VAST every year

Grant opportunities on the VAST web site; Think about co-writing a grant with a teacher

6. Fall, 2014 NSTA Regional Conference in Richmond (Susan Booth, Executive Director)

VAST 2014 PDI will be merged meeting with NSTA Regional Meeting 2014, Richmond

VRUEC can be a key player at this conference; perhaps help with a strand

Candace Lutzow-Felling is a member of the NSTA Board of Directors as the Director of Informal Science Education; she can provide influence, committee member help, & funds to support our regional activities at the conference

IDEAS: Environmental science education with an emphasis on outdoor-based learning; Informal-formal science educator collaborations

7. 2013 Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS; Susan Booth, Director)

2013 Symposium dates, Tuesday, May 21- Thursday, May 23 at Virginia Tech

About 1000 research papers are received each year, up to 20 pages each; Need

readers/evaluators; about 600 papers are selected for presentation each year

Need readers, judges during the symposium, dinner attendees to talk with students about what we do

Send Susan an email if you are interested in volunteering in any way. Can find her contact info on the VJAS web page

8. 2013 NAAEE Conference, Baltimore, MD (Greg Eaton)

October 9-12, 2013. This is an opportunity for VRUEC to be represented.

IDEAS: Contribute Virginia items/products for conference auction; Propose presentations; Representations of student work to exhibit

9. VOEE shift to DCR (Michael Foreman). Finalized July 1st, 2012

VOEE Staff: Bonnie Phillips, Carol Zokaite, Mike Foreman, Shelia Barnett, David Ruble

10. Virginia Environmental Literacy Plan (Michael Foreman)

What is Environmental Literacy? Powerpoint developed by Cindy Duncan, CBF, was shared by Mike. To view, go to www.fundee.org/facts/envlit/whatisenvlit.htm

Why teach env literacy: increase student achievement

Env. Literacy includes awareness, knowledge, attitudes, skills, and action

Environmental Literacy Plan Joint House Resolution is being considered by the VA legislature.

Ideas for how to advance an environmental literacy plan:

Need support from VDOE but VDOE cannot lead the process through the legislature Board of Education will be responsible for implementation; would be good to involve them in the process and get buy-in

Funding stream for EE is expected to come from U.S DOE with funds distributed to state Dept of Ed's. With VDOE support, the effort would be systemic.

Need involvement from VAST, VSELA and others

Would be good to also obtain support from business, Chambers of Commerce

If this Plan goes through VDOE, what happens to the informal science and adult science learning components?

MOTION: VRUEC will move forward support for the House Joint Resolution for Environmental Literacy, as proposed. Motion passed

11. Strategic Planning (Mike Foreman)

Where do we want to be in 3-5 years? Visioning process and planning for success

Discussion: Opportunity to think in conjunction with House Resolution for Environmental Literacy

Strategic plan can help determine direction of VRUEC and how to decide what to say yes or not to

Developing a strategic plan could take a lot of time and divert us from our active programs discussion

NAAEE has a lot of resources that will help the strategic planning process; Greg will send these resources to Barb

Members voted to table the discussion and continue at our winter meeting

Closing Announcements:

The next VRUEC meeting is being planned for May, 2013. Members will receive email notification of the next meeting place, time, and date.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Lutzow-Felling

Candace Lutzow-Felling
VRUEC Secretary